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SECRET

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE GROUP

INTELLIGENCE REPORT ^{CONFIDENTIAL}

COUNTRY Peru

DATE: 25X1A

SUBJECT Reported Growth of Communist Party in Southern Peru

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SUPPLEMENT

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ORIGIN

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1. Two of the Peruvian Communist Party's representatives in the Chamber of Deputies, Jose Macedo Mendoza from Carabaya, and Sergio Caller from Cuzco, returned to Lima in July, 1947, from a trip to southern Peru. They reported that the Party now has about 15,000 members in the Cuzco area, as compared with 8,000 in March 1946, based upon figures of Abelardo Salazar, Party Departmental Secretary for the Department of Cuzco. It was also stated that the Party had grown recently in Arequipa, many of the new members being former affiliates of the Union Revolucionaria. This increase was attributed to the campaigning of Augusto Chavez Bedoya, Departmental Secretary of the Communist Party in Arequipa.
2. The two deputies reported to Party headquarters in Lima that President Bustamante had appeared to be impressed with the strength of the Party in the south. They also expressed the hope that the demonstration of 24 June ("Dia del Indio") in Cuzco would convince the Government that the Peruvian Communist Party should not be treated as agents of Moscow. They expressed satisfaction with the attitude and leadership of the Confederacion de Trabajadores del Cuzco, which they indicated is firmly controlled by the Communists.

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